

APR -7 1924

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BORROWED HUSBANDS

Photoplay in 7 reels

From the Novel by Mildred K. Barbour

Directed by David Smith

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
Vitagraph Company of America of U.S.

APR -7 1924

Washington, D. C.

Register of Copyrights
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following
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BORROWED HUSBANDS - 7 reels

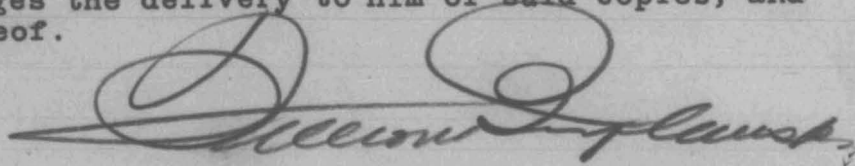
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FULTON BRYLAWSKI

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the receipt thereof.



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"BORROWED HUSBANDS"

From the newspaper serial
by Mildred K. Barbour

Directed by David Smith

Seven Reel Drama

Copyright and Produced by

THE VITAGRAPH COMPANY OF AMERICA

SYNOPSIS

Gerald Burrard, living happily with his wife Nancy, finds it necessary to take a trip to Central America, accompanying an archaeological expedition. Nancy declines to accompany him, and when he expresses the fear that she may be lonely, she says that she intends to avoid that by "borrowing husbands" of her several intimate friends. This is said in a light spirit - as Nancy loves her husband devotedly. Gerald leaves New York. Nancy confides her intention to Constance Stanley, who offers her own husband, Curtis, for Nancy to start in with. There is apparently little love lost between Curtis who is a consistent drinker and an energetic practical joker, and Constance Stanley. Curtis expresses his willingness to permit Nancy to "borrow" him and brings her to tea at Constance's apartments. Here they find Reeve and Peggy Lewis - another young married couple of their acquaintance. Reeve loves Peggy too well, so much so that she is annoyed at his perpetual attentions. At the tea, Major Desmond, bachelor and explorer, is introduced to Nancy. He questions the use of the title "Mrs." whereupon Curtis announces that Nancy is a widow. Despite Nancy's attempts to protest the deception Major Desmond is led to believe that Nancy is free to woo - and wed. Nancy receives word from Washington that Gerald will be delayed there a few days, and lonesome for him, she takes the train to Washington. Major Desmond, however, meets her at the station and gives her a book. It is at the hotel in Washington that Gerald finds out about the gift and the sender and voices his suspicions of Nancy. She matches his own anger with one of her own, and they part in a quarrel - Gerald going on his way to take the steamer south.

Nancy, lonesome and depressed, calls up an old school friend, and calls upon her. The friend is Edith Langwell, married to a prominent surgeon, Dr. Frederick Langwell. Edith is not happy. Langwell, she suspects, is too intimate with his feminine patients. The Langwells persuade Nancy to visit them while Nancy has her New York apartment redecorated. Langwell shows an intense admiration for Nancy, which she resents, until asked by Edith to try to keep Langwell interested in her. At Least Edith will know where he spends his time. Nancy decides to teach the smug, conceited Langwell a good lesson and permits him to believe that she reciprocates his fast-accumulating desire for her.

Major Desmond comes to Washington and takes Nancy to luncheon. It is here that they meet Langwell lunching with a modiste, Fleurette by name - with whom it is evident Langwell is having an affair. Langwell meets Major Desmond and invites him to the week-end at their mountain estate. Incidentally Langwell learns of the deception that Nancy is working on Major Desmond - posing as a widow. He persuades Nancy to keep his secret about Fleurette - if he will refrain from exposing her to Major Desmond. Nancy begins to grow uneasy as Langwell's love-making becomes more ardent and confident; and now she finds herself in further difficulty by the fact that

Major Desmond is whole-heartedly in love with her. Curtis Stanley joins the house-party. Fleurette, keeping a threat made to Langwell to come to the mountain estate, is injured in an automobile wreck close by. The injured girl is taken to Langwell's house, where he alone attends her injuries. Despite Nancy's efforts to restrain him, Major Desmond proposes. He insists upon an answer - but an interruption saves her temporarily. It is a situation she must meet, however, and plans to confess her deception. Curtis Stanley speaks lightly of Nancy's love affairs, and Major Desmond takes exception, protesting that he has asked her to be his wife. Curtis hears this in amazement, and then breaks into hilarity at the situation. Major Desmond is called away, ~~leaves~~ leaves a note, saying he will wait at the hotel for a day - for Nancy's answer. Langwell has Edna Dean in attendance on the injured Fleurette. Edna Dean is a nurse who loves Langwell and with whom he is mixed up. Langwell either by administering too strong a stimulant to Fleurette, or by the use of poison, permits the modiste to die. Edna Dean is really an accessory to the crime. This tragedy breaks up the house-party and Nancy plans to leave. Langwell tries to force his love upon her. Nancy insists that she loves no one but her husband. Langwell shows among the contents of Fleurette's hand-bag a cancelled check drawn to her order and signed by Gerald. Nancy believes that her husband has been having his affair, and disgusted with his actions, writes him to that effect, the purport of which is to send him straight to the devil.

In New York, Nancy puts up at Constance's house, since her own apartment is not yet ready for her. This throws Curtis into intimacy with her. Reeve Lewis tells his troubles and she advises him to be seen with other women in order to create the impression in Peggy's mind that she must make advances to keep his affections. Constance falls ill. Langwell comes to New York, and meeting Nancy, offers his services. Langwell calls at the Stanley apartment, and in consultation with another physician, insists upon an operation without loss of time. Finding himself with Nancy, he loses control of his emotions. As Nancy repulses him Langwell grows rough in his methods, tearing roughly to him. Constance, ill, hears the confusion and tries to rise. Curtis wakes and enters the scene in his dressing gown. Langwell takes his departure, as Nancy, seeks comfort in Curtis' arms. Constance sees and misinterpreting the scene, orders Nancy from her house. Constance faints and Nancy helps her back to bed. Here she discovers the locket that Constance has always worn, is open. She finds therein Curtis' picture - a proof that Constance really loves him. With this locket, she goes to Curtis, who is taking his dismissal in the usual manner. Nancy forces him to admit that he really loves Constance, and when she gives him the locket, he finds out for the first time that Constance's devotion for him was so deep. He goes to her room where they confess the truth - that they love each other devotedly. Nancy having brought them happiness, leaves for her own home. Prior to this time, it has been shown that Gerald, fever-stricken had been left behind the expedition. In his quarters in a shabby hotel in a small seaport town in Central America he receives Nancy's letter. To this same town comes Major Desmond, planning a trip into the interior. Pending the completion of his plans he takes a room at the same hotel - although neither man knows the other. In the friendship following - Gerald learns of Nancy's and Desmond's acquaintance in New York. He returns to New York.

In the meantime, Edna Deane has been questioned by the authorities in the matter of Fleurette's death. The body had been exhumed and enough evidence discovered to create a suspicion against Langwell. At the hospital Constance is being prepared for the operation. Edna Deane bursts in upon Langwell telling him that she has confessed, implicating him in the murder of Fleurette.

of Fleurette. She tells him that there is yet time for them to escape - to go away to some other country and be happy. Langwell is tempted by the chance to escape the law. Then he is informed that the patient is under either - and there is a mental struggle in him - the desire for free dom and escape - battling with the professional training - the ethics of the profession of surgery. He rises to the heights, casts aside his chances of escape and goes to his duty, after taking a deadly poison. Shaken by the scathing criticisms of Constance, Nancy resolves to have nothing more to do with any other husband. Called to the phone, and busy talking over Constance's chances of recovery and of Langwell's suicide, she turns to find herself confronted with Reeve Lewis - the husband of Peggy. Reeve announces that he is adopting Nancy's own advice - that he has contrived to let Peggy know that he is there in Nancy's apartment. He intends to remain there until Peggy knows that he is there in Nancy's apartment and finds him. Then Peggy will either show her affection for him or let him go. At least he will find out how and where he stands. Nancy protests against the unfairness to her. Reeve will not let her have her wraps - as Nancy plans to leave Reeve in charge while she goes. She rushes to her boudoir closet to get another wrap and there she finds a hat from Fleurette - that Gerald had bought for her while in Washington. In the hatbox is a loving note from him. His check to Fleurette is explained and Nancy sobs from sheer happiness. Reeve hears her and she grasps him rapturously in her excitement. It is at this particular time that Gerald arrives at the house, gaunt from his fever. He enters the apartment, misinterprets the situation and voices his scathing criticisms of Nancy. He will leave her to Reeve and take his departure. Nancy pleads with him to believe in her, Reeve adding his statement to the effect that Nancy is not involved. The situation is at its tensest, when Peggy emerges from concealment. She had come first to the apartment and had heard all. Therefore she believes Nancy's explanation - otherwise she would have mistrusted her. She removes Reeve from temptation, leaving Nancy alone with her husband. Explanations are made and they are happily vowing their love when the phone interrupts. A woman friend phones and asks Nancy to accompany her husband to the opera as she has a headache. Nancy refuses. Happiness of Nancy and Gerald as the scene fades.

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